

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:A. HALE

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:G. TWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 012694

TOSEC 263

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SAM 86970

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SAIGON DATED JANUARY 20, 1974 SENT

ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 863

DEPT PLEASEE PASS AS NECESSARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, VS, CH, PF

SUBJECT: PRC-GVN CLASH IN PARACELS

REF: SAIGON 0862

1. SINCE DICTATING REFTTEL, WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT PRC AIRCRAFT ARE BOMBING AND PRC NAVAL VESSALS ARE SHELLING MONEY, ROBERT AND PATTLE ISLANDS. PRC ARE LANDING TROOPS ON PATTLE ISLAND. VNN HEADQUARTERS REPORTS 10 WIA ON PATTLE ISLAND. HQ 4 AND HQ 5 CLOSED DANANG AT 200730 (H) AND HQ 16 CLOSED DANANG AT 200930 (H). CASUALTIES ON ALL THREE SHIPS ARE 10 KILLED AND 36 WOUNDED. VIETNAMESE NAVY HEADQUARTERS HAS ORDERED THE FOUR COASTAL VESSELS IN THE AREA TO WITHDRAW. VIETNAMESE SHIPS ARE DOING SO,

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FOLLOWED BY PRC MIG AIRCRAFT. GVN HAS NO PLANS TO REINFORCE OR TO

EXTRACT THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS LEFT ON ISLANDS. SHIPS HAVE LOST COMMUNICATIONS WITH TROOPS ON THE ISLANDS.

2. OBVIOUSLY THE PRC IS NOT ENGAGED IN SIMPLE REINFORCEMENT OF IT FORCES IN THE PARACELS BUT IN A WELL PLANNED OPERATION TO SEIZE THE ISLANDS. IN VIEW OF THIS WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO RECONSIDER WHAT KIND OF REPRESENTATIONS IT MAKES TO PEKING AND WHAT TONE IT WILL ADOPT IN PUBLIC STATEMENT.

3. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT US MILITARY FORCE NOT (RPT NOT) REMOTELY DESIRABLE IN THISV SITUATION BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT OTHER STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN IN THE DIPLOMATIC ARENA.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO GET THE GVN TO PLAY IT AS COOL AS CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PERMIT, CONSIDERING THAT THEIR FORCES ARE BEING KILLED IN THE ISLANDS.
MARTIN UNQUOTE RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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